

God's Recipe for a Good Marriage

Eph. 5:33

Introduction:

- A. Marriage can affect earthly happiness and heavenly hope.
 - 1. A bad marriage can hinder both.
 - 2. A good marriage can enhance both.
- B. Marriage is not a one-time event, but a life time project.
- C. Let us notice five important *ingredients* in God's recipe for a good marriage.

Discussion:

I. Legitimacy.

- A. Not all marriages are legitimate (Mk. 6:17,18)
 - 1. Such marriages are adulterous (cf. Rom. 7:3; Matt. 19:9)
 - 2. May be good otherwise, but nothing can "sanctify" them.
- B. Can be legitimate without being good, cannot be good without legitimacy.

II. Love.

- A. Not merely the superficial love of passion.
 - 1. This is the love depicted in Soaps and Fairy Tales.
 - 2. This is kind that folks easily fall in and out of.
- B. But, a the deep love of commitment.
 - 1. Whole hearted love — involves emotion, intellect and will.
 - 2. A love that can be taught, learned and cultivated.
 - a. Husbands can be taught to love wives. (Eph. 5:25; Col. 3:19)
 - b. Wives can be taught to love husbands. (Tit. 2:4).

III. Peace.

- A. Wedding ring should not symbolize of fighting ring. (cf. Prov. 21:19; 25:24)
- B. Wedding bells should not signal round one.
- C. Some things that make for peace:
 - 1. Avoid being petty or stubborn.
 - 2. Do let disagreements degenerate into strife. (cf. take a walk)
 - 3. Go the extra mile for peace (Not 50-50, but 75-75 proposition)
 - 4. Resist outside interference of family and friends. ("Leave & Cleave")

IV. Consideration.

- A. Be considerate of each other's basic needs and desires. (1 Cor. 7:1-5).
- B. Be considerate of each other's responsibilities — make them as easy as possible.
 - 1. Wives make it easy for husband to:
 - a. Rule his house. (Eph. 5:25; 1 Tim. 3:5)
 - b. To make a living (cf. 1 Tim. 5:8)
 - 2. Husbands make it easy for wife to:
 - a. Submit and obey. (1 Pet. 3:7; Eph. 5:28)
 - b. Be a homemaker. (Tit. 2:5)
 - 3. Each makes other's parental role easy.

V. Spirituality.

- 1. Recognize that **God** joined you together. (Matt. 19:6)
- 2. Seek peace because **God** has called us to peace. (1 Cor. 7:15).
- 3. Love and submit like **Christ** and the **Church**. (Eph. 5)
- 4. Behave Lest **Word of God** be blasphemed. (Tit. 2:5).
- 5. Behave because it is a great price in **God's** sight. (1 Pet. 3:4)
- 6. Behave lest **Prayers** be hindered. (1 Pet. 3:7)

Conclusion:

- A. If you are a Christian
 - 1. You do all you can to have a good marriage.

2. You will love, be peaceable, considerate and spiritual.
- B. If you are both faithful Christians, no excuse for bad marriage.
 1. Need no counselor, if both decide to obey God.
 2. Need only to have Scriptures called your attention.